

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA RECORDS 3.6 PERCENT APRIL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, May 19, 2006. The Alabama unemployment rate for April increased to 3.6 percent following a record low 3.3 percent jobless rate in March. The unemployment rate in April 2005 was 4.0 percent.

“The latest unemployment rate represents 78,506 unemployed Alabamians, compared to 71,676 in March, and 85,492 in April 2005,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director.

The comparable national unemployment rate for April is 4.7 percent, which is the same rate posted in March. In April 2005 the national jobless rate was 5.1 percent.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 37,100 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+10,500); followed by educational and health services (+5,300); manufacturing (+4,800); construction (+4,400); leisure and hospitality (+4,400); government (+3,600); and trade (wholesale and retail) transportation and utilities (+2,600).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on “Alabama Labor Market Information Division” under “Quick Links” and follow prompts.